



Common Ground Center

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

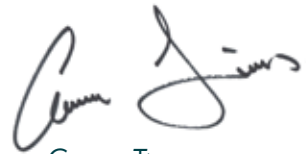


Letter from the Director

As I read the news in 2018 I was often reminded of the words of environmentalist and author Derrick Jensen. He once said in a speech after a litany of bad news about climate change that “things are really hard right now, but life is still so good!” This statement resonates with me because for too many of our families and children, there seemed to be forces determined to make things harder this year. In 2018 we welcomed some families in real dire straits; some were experiencing homelessness, some were seeking refuge in this country, some campers were living with food insecurity, other campers saw their rights challenged at the highest levels of power. And yet, in the face of these challenges our community danced, we sang, we played, we made beautiful works of art, and at every turn we were able to remind each other that **life is still so good**. What this year has taught me is that happiness is not the absence of difficulty or struggle, but rather the strength, support and laughter one can muster in the face of that difficulty. I remain grateful to the early leaders in our organization who worked so hard to create this culture of celebration in the face of adversity, who continually remind us that when you have more than you need, you build a bigger table, not a taller wall. Due in large part to this spirit of support and celebration CGC had one of it’s best years in its (now) 25 year history; welcoming more participants, receiving more support from more people and fulfilling our mission to provide positive learning experiences for youth, families and partner organizations.

As we prepare to celebrate our 25th year, CGC is so grateful to the amazing work and play of the dedicated staff, volunteers and campers who make this community what it is. We hope that 2019 will represent a continuation of the success we had in 2018, and with your help that will surely be the case.

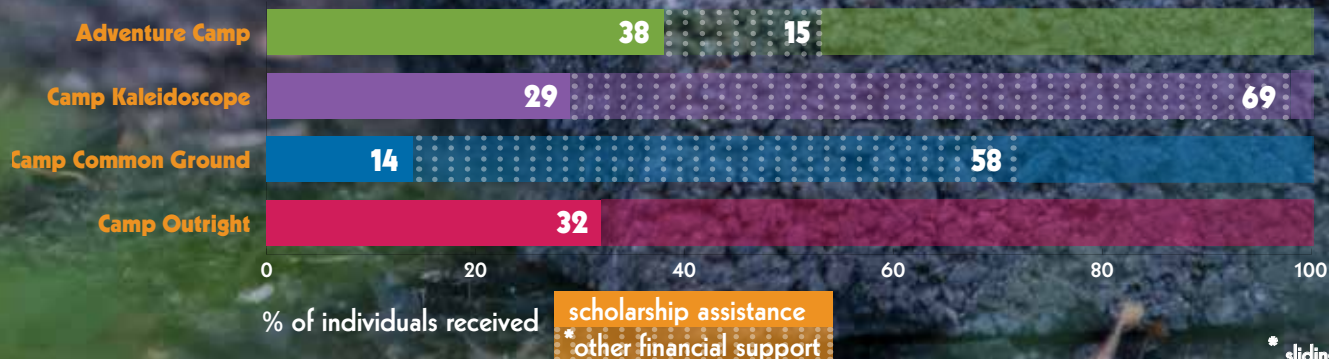
Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Connor Timmons". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "T".

Connor Timmons
Executive Director

Camp For Everyone

When Jim Mendell and Peg Kamens started Camp Common Ground in 1994, they envisioned a program where anyone who wanted to, could come to camp. And they did! Single parents, LGBTQ families, adoptive families, people of all abilities, BIPOC families, folks who needed support to make it happen and those who had the means to help others, all rolled into one caring community. This vision of an accessible community for everyone has been central to all that we do here at CGC ever since. Whether its sliding scale fee structures, generous financial aid or finding ways to deliver the program to folks with special needs - CGC is committed to creating a **camp for everyone**.



* sliding scale, sibling discounts



ADVENTURE CAMPS

Nature day camps for local youth



Every child should have access to the natural wonders around them. This simple principle has informed how CGC Adventure Day Camps function. In 2018, CGC was able to open 128 spots for children to learn, play and grow in nature under the guidance of our staff. Perhaps most importantly, we were able to provide over \$11,000 in financial aid to families whose children might not otherwise have been able to attend.



CAMP KALEIDOSCOPE

Celebrating families with children on the autism spectrum



"It isn't easy to quantify what Camp K has given us, but the best way I can describe it is that Camp K gives us hope. There is a feeling of ease that comes with simply being around other autism families. It's something we used to take for granted, and it is Camp K's greatest gift: acceptance; lack of judgment; understanding." - Excerpt from Camp K parent's letter



CAMP COMMON GROUND

Summer camp for the whole family



Jane is a single mother struggling to make ends meet. She heard about CGC from a friend and inquired about a campership. Over the winter, her situation took a turn for the worse and she ended up in a shelter with her children. When summer rolled around, she still hadn't gotten her application together, but she called and explained her situation. The staff told her that if she could get to camp we'd take care of the rest. While at camp, Jane had some time to breathe and look into some work options and the kids made new friends. This is what we mean when we say "Camp is for Everyone".



CAMP OUTRIGHT

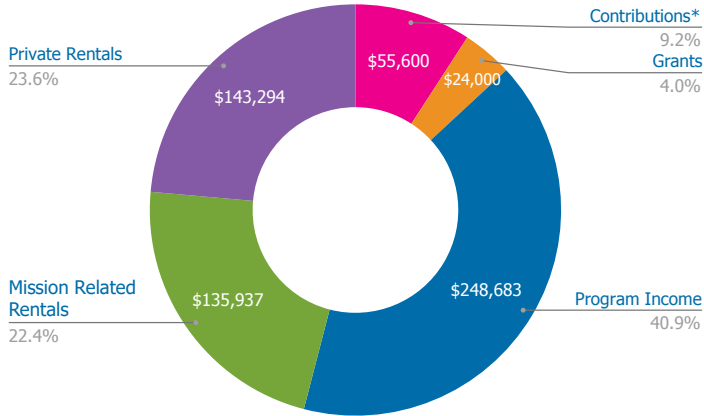
A residential camp for LGBTQ teens



"This is the first time in my entire life that I haven't felt lonely." A 16 year old camper had that to say about their experience at Camp Outright. Breaking down the social isolation that LGBTQ youth often experience living in a rural setting is a primary goal for Camp Outright. Creating a space where young people can meet positive role models and peers who celebrate them for who they are means that no one has to feel lonely anymore.

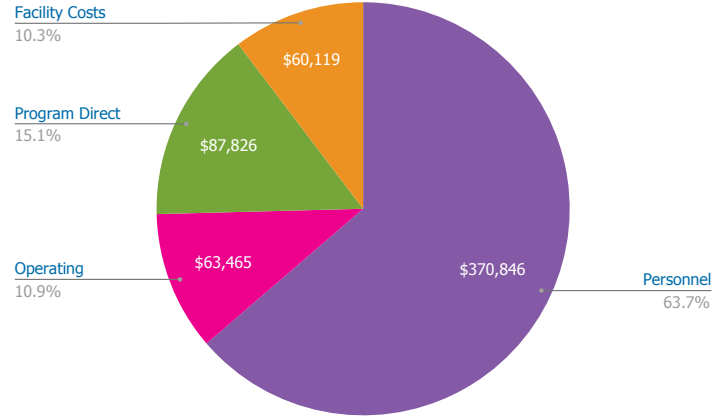
2018 Financials

Revenue



Total Revenue: \$607,514

Expenses



Total Expenses: \$582,256

*Contributions = Private Donations & Events

Total Revenue: \$607,514 - Total Expenses: \$582,256 = Total Net Income: \$25,258

Supporters

Foundations & Grants

The Agnes M Lindsay Trust • Autism Speaks, Inc • Ben & Jerry's Foundation • Fanny Allen Corporation • Fountain Fund • George W Mergens Foundation • The Mendell Family Fund Inc • National Life Group • People's United Bank • Putnam Foundation • Samara Fund • Vermont Community Foundation • Walter Cerf Community Fund •

Donors

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Volunteers

Jane Albert • Bruce Balistieri • Lori Biamonte • Wanda Bouvier • Caleb Brewer • Brittany Ciullo • Charlie Cunningham • Brodie Frew • Abby Johnson • Sheila Knight • Pete Lossman • Jim Mendell • Jon Morin • Joan Plisko • Diane Polledri • Molly Rubin • Megan Skerry • South Burlington HS • Mary Summers • Hannah Whitcomb • Dennis Woos • And all the Family Partners from: Montclair State University • Emerson College • Northeastern University • SUNY Plattsburgh • UMASS Amherst •

Donor Key: Purple = Camp K Green = Adventure Camp Blue = Camp Common Ground donor Magenta = Camp Outright Black = General * = Donor for multiple programs

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Board Member



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Edorah Frazer
Board Member



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Co-founder



Arlene Kriv
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Chris Nial
Board Member



Steve Scholle
Board Member



Wendy Shepard
Caretaker



Connor Timmons
Executive Director



Ellen Yount
Board Member



Common Ground Center is a nonprofit multi-age arts, education, and outdoor recreation and retreat center. We are dedicated to environmental sustainability and strengthening diverse families and communities through unique program offerings and facility rentals.